

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 16, 2004

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-styled patent application, which is a divisional of the parent patent application filed on November 1, 2000 and assigned U.S. Application Serial No. 09/703,748 on behalf of the inventors Jeffrey R. Aamodt, Alexander R. Sourov, and Darius Snapkauskas, please amend the application as shown below and consider the appended remarks.

AMENDMENT

In the Specification

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please amend the first paragraph on page 1 as follows:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail No. EV 371442818 US in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop Patent Application, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 16, 2004.

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